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Saillant spoke extensively about the United States' increasingly urgent bid for world domination. He described how the United States, after the favorable outcome of World War II, had assumed leadership of a reactionary international coalition whose aim is to arrest the peoples' progress on the road to complete political and economic independence. It attempts to thwart the democratic advance of the nations. It seeks to safeguard the power of private monopolies. It wants to force upon human beings a way of life, a form of civilization, a system of social interrelations which, under the slogan of liberty, supports their mutual exploitation, as well as discrimination among peoples and races.

Referring to the North Atlantic Pact, the remilitarization of West Germany, the rearming of Japan, and the San Francisco Agreement of September 1951, Saillant enlarged upon the capitalist world's regrouping of its political and military forces under the superior command of the US, 6 years after the end of World War II. He also cited West European and other countries which are dependent on the United States, by way of demonstrating how the latter's policy had developed into a "total diplomacy" which brings increased pressure to bear on the dependent countries.

"Discrimination against human rights goes hand in hand with national and racial discrimination," Saillant said. "This discriminating policy extends from the violation of individual rights to the denial of the people's right to govern themselves." However, he added that nothing would prevent those peoples whose rights were still being denied from asserting their just claims to their rights.

Thus, the Iranians have given unequivocal expression to their determination to control the treasures of their country as they see fit. The Egyptian workers in the Suez Canal zone refuse to do any more forced labor for the British. The liberation of the peoples enslaved by Hitlerian fascism and Japanese militarism has opened to all dependent and colonial peoples new and concrete possibilities for their own liberation. The tremendous victory of the Chinese people over the nationalist oppressors and their American backers has given new hope to millions of people who are still oppressed.

The WFTU, Saillant declared, is solidly behind all those peoples in Asia, the Middle or Near East, Africa, and Latin America who are determined to build their own future as their needs, their faith, their traditions, and their desires may demand.

The condition of the underdeveloped peoples has grown worse since the second WFTU congress, Saillant said. He asserted that, President Truman's "aid program for underdeveloped areas" arms, under the cover of technical aid, to plant American specialists in key positions of production, administration, and finance in a number of countries, to favor investments of private American capital, to create new possibilities for increasing these investments and thus to assure these investors of a tremendous profit, and to obtain sources of raw material for American industry within the framework of the present war economy.

Saillant stated that the raw material market plays an important role in the rearmament program and in the war economy of the US as well as in the Marshall Plan countries. Through the accumulation of huge supplies of raw materials, through the control of the raw material market, and through the control of market prices the US has in the past few months emphasized its economic predominance in the capitalistic world. "This ruling position may well be an expression of power. But it can quickly become the cause of an inner collapse of the capitalistic economy."

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The general secretary of the WFTU designated the discriminatory policy of the US in international commerce as a measure which likewise serves the preparations for war. This policy demands the severest sacrifices from countries like Great Britain, France, and Italy, which could, by normal trade with the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies, again revive their shattered economies. In this connection, Saillant stressed the international economic congress scheduled to be held in Moscow in April 1952. The great interest in this congress is proof that many economic circles are seeking a way out of the blind alley into which American policy has led them.

The WFTU, said Saillant, cannot sit idly by. "We must help with all our trade unions to promote the favorable disposition for normal trade relationships."

Saillant emphasized that the war economy of the US monopolists and of the governments dependent on them had led in the capitalistic and colonial countries to political and social struggles on a scale hitherto unheard of. The masses of workers have not been passive. The trade unions have shown great activity. Important strikes have taken place during which the fighting spirit of the proletariat against its exploiters has been fortified. The proletariat has accomplished heroic deeds in defending the cause of peace.

The pauperization of the masses, the plots against union rights and democratic freedom, the increased exploitation of the colonies, and the increased danger of war have brought waves of protests which prove that the workers do not stand alone in their struggle against reaction.

In many countries the progressive forces have become allied with the working classes. Together they present a broad resistance front to imperialism and reactionary policies.

The WFTU has defended the interests of all workers without discrimination; it has held high the banner of international proletarian solidarity. In the various bodies of the UN it has made itself the protagonist of the working masses.

The great political and social struggles of the past 2 years have shown that the workers' unity of action has been crystallizing more and more. Saillant reported, in this connection, on WFTU efforts to broaden the workers' fighting front. Thus, the executive bureau of the WFTU, in July 1951, suggested to the International League of Free Trade Unions and to the International League of Christian Trade Unions that there be a common congress of the three organizations to determine what could be done to defend the workers' vital interests. Further measures along this line will be taken up at the Berlin meeting of the general council.

Saillant contrasted the situation in capitalistic and colonial countries with that of the countries which have freed themselves from the yoke of capitalism. "Here, indeed, one must speak of an economic and social upsurge and not of the anarchistic state of the economy and of social disorder as they exist in the capitalistic countries." In the USSR and the new democracies social progress is rising steadily; in the capitalistic countries it is retarded. At present, he continued, in only four countries in the world has the complete operation of social security been put into the hands of the trade unions: the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the GDR.

"All these facts explain why the WFTU is in the camp of the fighters for peace," Saillant emphasized. "The WFTU has given the widest support to the World Peace Council. Our trade unions and their members helped in 1950 to collect signatures for the Stockholm peace appeal. Now, as then, they are collecting signatures for a peace pact between the great powers. The WFTU is in favor of

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banning the atom bomb and is for a general, simultaneous, and controlled disarmament. If the imperialists pretend to support disarmament, they do it only to counteract the efforts of the World Peace Council and above all the will of the peoples, who demand at once a decrease of war budgets and the manufacture of consumers' goods instead of arms production."

Saillant received long applause when he said: "Things are pretty bad for the warmongers. They are learning that when the people take into their own hands the matter of preserving the peace and defend that right to the utmost, human masses without number tread the path of peace, which is brilliantly illuminated by the greatest of all fighters for peace, Stalin."

The growing strength of the WFTU can be seen in the increase in membership. The organizations associated with WFTU now have over 80 million members, about 20 million more than at the time of the founding of WFTU in 1945.

The WFTU, Saillant stated, had agreed to the suggestion of young Dutch workers to call an international conference for defense of the rights of youth in 1952. In this connection, he appealed to all the national organizations to strive to enroll all young people who each year join the workers' ranks.

In conclusion, Saillant said that the WFTU had been able to strengthen the trade union movement even though some reactionary union leaders were attempting to weaken the international labor movement. "We live in a period in which the fighting tools of the working masses are increasing in every field and in which, as never before, the interrelationships between workers are growing in depth and intensity." He said that he was a great victory in the fact that more and more national trade unions were exchanging delegates with each other and in fact that many WFTU delegates were in contact with workers in many lands.

Louis Saillant closed his speech with the following words: "We have reason to look to the future with courage. If the WFTU could show that it is a living expression of the international unity of the workers, then the international worker class has shown in its efforts that the international [organization] of the workers is the only way which can lead the people to happiness and mankind to a strong and lasting peace."

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